

DIPHTHERIA TRACED TO CATS

Absolute Proof That Domestic Pets Can Be Carriers of Most Dangerous Disease.

The relationship between the diseases of men and of animals has been as much neglected in this country as it has been studied in the tropics. For this reason we are profoundly ignorant of the role which animals play—if they play any role at all—in the dissemination of epidemics.

Special interest attaches, therefore, to a communication to the National Medical Journal, which describes how an outbreak of diphtheria in an orphanage was traced back to some cats in the building. Sixty-nine cases of diphtheria out of a total of 71 came, it was found, from the boys' house. After many investigations and precautions such factors in the production of the disease as sanitary defects, contaminated water supply and food were eliminated. Realizing that there must be a carrier of the bacillus, the physician in charge decided to turn his attention to the cats and took swabs from all their throats.

On bacteriological examination it was found that the four cats from the boys' side of the orphanage were suffering from diphtheria; the four cats from the girls' side, although showing other microorganisms in profusion, did not prove to have the true diphtheria bacillus. The cats were destroyed, and after that only ten more cases of diphtheria occurred. They occurred within a few days, showing that they had already become infected when the cats were destroyed. There have been no cases since. This tends to show that cats are, or can be, carriers of diphtheria.

GOES SOUTH OF THE YANGTSE

Expedition From the American Museum of Natural History Is to Explore Strange Lands.

According to Roy Chapman Andrews, leader of the zoological expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, "the vast Tibetan region, north of the Himalaya mountains," is the region where remains of the early mammals, including man, may be found. The scope of the expedition is primarily zoological rather than anthropological, however.

Little is known of the large territory lying south of the Yangtse river, and the expedition, which will approach Central Asia by way of China, will spend much of its time in that neighborhood, and particularly in the wild and mountainous province of Kweichow, which, says Mr. Andrews, "is probably the most interesting of all, and is certainly one of the least known."

One thing that makes this province interesting is the presence of the independent tribe called the Miaotse, of which little is known.

Among other places, the expedition will visit Foochow, on the coast between Shanghai and Hongkong, where an effort will be made to get a specimen of a tiger hitherto uncatalogued by science. This animal, according to amateur naturalists, is "a handsome beast, with a Maltese ground color."

The Rodin Collection.

France has at last accepted the collection offered by the great sculptor, Rodin. It took her three years to decide. She hesitates when authentic riches are offered her, remarks Cri de Paris. If it is a question of horrors, like those amassed by the late Chauchard, she jumps at them. Rodin has collected many antique marbles, but he has not admitted the terra cottas of Tanagra or Myrrhina into his gallery. "One may be easily deceived," he said. "It is so easy to mold an ancient original in clay. And how are you to detect the fraud? Henri Rochefort had two glass cases filled with Tanagras which were false. The fraud was discovered by analyzing the earth of which these statuettes were made. This substance, said the geologists, was found in the suburbs of Paris. So it was not certain that the Greek decorators would have gone there for their clay." Among other antique fragments Rodin possesses the marvelous hand of a statue. "This is signed Phidias," he said one day to an American who had come to visit him. The American turned the hand over to discover the precious stamp. He could not find it. "Ah," said Rodin, "the signature is only visible to the eye of the artist."

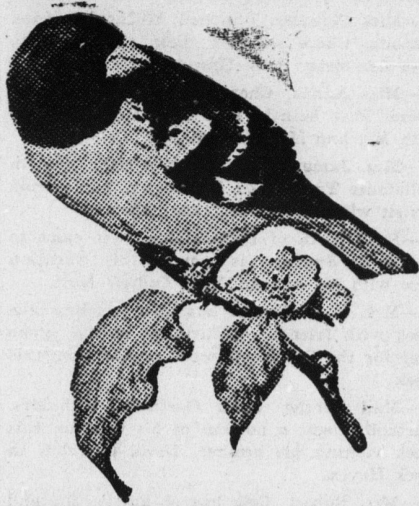
The Ideal

The new restaurant inspection squad from the department of health had penetrated into the dirtiest sub-cellar restaurant kitchen in the day's round. They found food without covers exposed to the dust-swirls of air-shafts, and lamb chops riding up and down on the dirtiest dumb-waiter ever lifted. In the midst of the scurrying of kitchen maids to find the mislaid covers and to broom out the caked dumb-waiter dirt, a little Slavic maid sidled up to one of the inspectors.

"Say, will you please do the homes, too?" she said in a low undertone of broken English. "You know, where I board they don't care whether they clean any at all. When will you be there?"

All of which opened a heavier question than she thought.—New York Evening Post.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK
(Zamelodia ludoviciana)



Length, eight inches.

Range: Breeds from Kansas, Ohio, Georgia (mountains), and New Jersey, north to southern Canada; winters from Mexico to South America.

Habits and economic status: This beautiful grosbeak is noted for its clear, melodious notes, which are poured forth in generous measure. The rosebreast sings even at midday during summer, when the intense heat has silenced almost every other songster. Its beautiful plumage and sweet song are not its sole claim on our favor, for few birds are more beneficial to agriculture. The rosebreast eats some green peas and does some damage to fruit. But this mischief is much more than balanced by the destruction of insect pests. The bird is so fond of the Colorado potato beetle that it has earned the name of "potato-bug bird," and no less than a tenth of the total food of the rosebreasts examined consists of potato beetles—evidence that the bird is one of the most important enemies of the pest. It vigorously attacks cucumber beetles and many of the scale insects. It proved an active enemy of the Rocky mountain locust during that insect's ruinous invasions, and among the other pests it consumes are the spring and fall cankerworms, orchard and forest tent caterpillars, tussock, gipsy, and brown-tail moths, plum curculio, army worm, and chinch bug. In fact, not one of our birds has a better record.

SEEK TO AVOID THE BLUES

One's Troubles Frequently Will Be Found to Exist Only in the Imagination.

There are a lot of people in this world who seem to take a fiendish delight in being miserable and in making others feel that way, too, remarks the Brockton (Mass.) Times.

Some men, and some women, too, surround themselves with an atmosphere of gloom that eternal sunshine couldn't dispel and through this distorting medium molehills grow to mountains and there are tears and groans where there should be smiles.

They wake up in the morning with a face that looks like a sodden doughnut, and perhaps the sun is bright and the birds are singing. They will grumble and say, "O, well, this won't last; we'll have had weather yet before night." And should the sky grow clouded and a refreshing rain moisten the thirsty earth they shout in glee, "I told you so."

When they sit down to breakfast they almost sour the cream they put in the coffee, and the most tempting breakfast does them about as much good as a carpet tack sandwich would. They grow dyspeptic, morose, pessimistic, cynical, hypochondriacal and get to be downright nuisances.

If you ever get to feeling blue about things stop and think what it will mean if you keep it up and then pin your mind so hard on your daily task that there isn't room for another thing in your head. That's the way to keep the haunting spirit of pessimism and despondency out of your heart.

And remember the world has no time to listen to your troubles, for every one has troubles of his own, and the chances are a good many have a great deal heavier burden to bear than you have.

Shakespearean Humor.

McKean Buchanan, a Californian tragedian in the olden days, was noted for the roaring style in which he played Shakespearean characters, also for his fondness for litigation, and for never paying his lawyers. J. Gordon Eastman was posted as to this last peculiarity of the "great Shakespearean delineator," as he styled himself, and when Buchanan, filled with wrath at an adverse criticism in a city paper, determined to sue the editor, burst into the lawyer's office and said: "Sir, I wish to retain you," the man of the law replied: "Awfully sorry, Mr. Buchanan, but I am retained on the other side." Buchanan replied: "The other side; what other side? Who has retained you against me?" The attorney replied, "Shakespeare's ghost," and the interview closed.—T. F.

No Dry Days in His.

Hungry Higgins—If youse could live yore life over agin' wot would youse cut out?

Thirsty Thompson—I'd cut out all de days wot wuz boozeless.

How It Happened.

First Woman (angrily)—Your Johnny gave my Willie the measles.
Second Woman—No such thing! Your Willie came over where my Johnny was and took 'em.

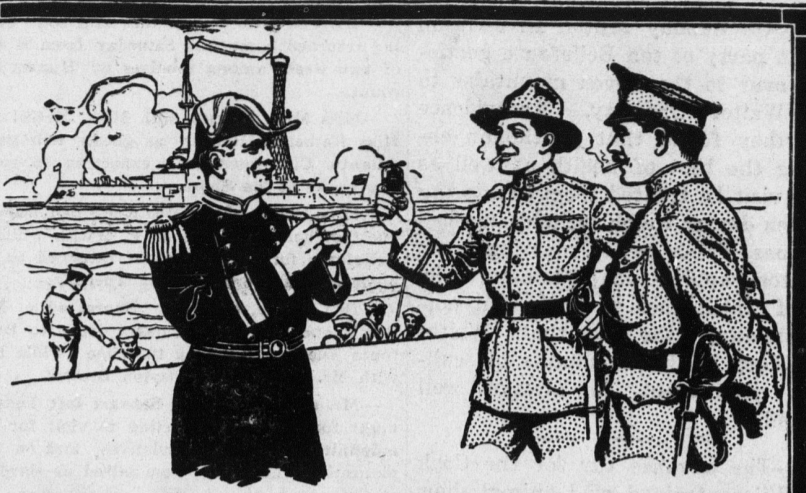
Rules for Tennis Players.

- 1 Clothes should fit loosely and comfortably, but the shoes should be snug in fit.
- 2 The racket should be light and have a small handle.
- 3 Hold the racket by the extreme end and grip it tightly.
- 4 The feet should be far apart and in line with the play, the side of the body toward the net.
- 5 Give the arm a full, long swing

and let the momentum of the racket do the work.

- 6 Keep your eyes everlastingly on the ball.
- 7 Keep away from the ball and give it plenty of room.
- 8 Swing the body with the play, and "follow through" after the ball with the weight.
- 9 Don't try to hit the ball too hard at first; it is better to be sure of not missing and learn speed a little later.

—J. Parmly Paret, in the St. Nicholas.



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